Boston October 19. 1776.

The Honble John Hancock Esqre

Dear Sir,

I wrote you the 5th p Mr Taylor, and inclosed the second Bill of Mr Cushing's Draft of the 2d Inst. on you for £300..0..0. Since which I have received your Letters of the 27th September and of the 10th Instant. I have had the pleasure of a Visit from Col. Athearn, inclosed you have a letter from him, by which you will see that he has received of Capt. Kendrick (who is gone on a Cruize against the Enemy) for your Account four Province Notes, as they are called, amounting with the Interest due on them to £482..2..6. which he has paid to me. The Money for the Oil Bone Vessell &c. amounting he supposes to about £770.0.0 he will forward me immediately upon his getting home, I expect to receive it in about three Weeks, he tells me he has wrote you fully what prospect he has of selling the other Vessells. Mr Harris, who has Coffin's Notes, called at my House last Week, I was not in Town, I shall write to him by this days Post that I will pay him in three Weeks. When I shall have received the above Money of Col. Athearn, and Coffin's demand is paid, suppose shall have upwards of £500..0.0 in my hands. I observe your Orders, Sir, not to remit any more Money to Philadelphia at present. I have purchas'd for you a hogshead of choice Sugar, and am in treaty about a Cask of old Madeira. I observe in your Letter of the 10th which I have just received that I may expect to see Capt. Carnean soon. You may depend upon my doing every thing in my power to fullfill your expectations. I wish, Sir, for your particular Orders about the Wharff as Capt. Matchet says he has your express Orders for what he does, and seems not very inclinable to give up his trust or settle Accounts without your particular directions. As to the Cards, Captain Carnean bought them when I was confined in the Country, he had a hundred Dollars of me for that purpose, and I did suppose he had given you an account of them, I do not know what they cost, but will inquire and inform you in my next. As to News, Sir, we have none that we can depend upon. Foreign Affairs there is a Thousand Reports about.

about. Domestic matters continue much as they did, our General Court is yet puzzling about a Constitution, I hear they are exceedingly divided. Our Town matters begin to wear a better face, many of the Inhabitants have lately returned; our Militia is getting into some Order, though it will be nothing Grand unless it will be better Officered than formerly. All friends are well, Mr. Burr & Lady are here. In your last Letter I observe that your Town & State are not to be favored with a Visit this Season, for my part I begin to fear, if we are to wait untill you are at leisure before we see you here, that both you and your Boy (for I suppose he cannot be parted with) will stay in Philadelphia untill the War is ended, though I hope the young Gentleman will in due time become more visible than he has lately been, or than Mrs. Bant supposes he is even now, unless the happy Genius of his Pappa has push'd him into place, rather sooner than he was expected, if so, I give you Joy, Sir, and hope that Madam is comfortable. Mrs. Bant is very anxious to know how it is with Mrs. Hancock, and prays you Sir, to be so kind as to give us a serious account as soon as circumstances will permit. She joins me in the most respectful Regards to you Sir, your Lady & Miss Quincy, and believe me in particular to be worthy Sir

Your Ever Obliged & most Obedient
& most humble Servant
William Bant

P.S. I shall go to Salem on Monday with Mr. Sharp to take a view of your Ship there. By my friends here I find that several Letters for me were sent to Philadelphia, which did not get there 'till after I left it, shall be much obliged if Mr. Taylor when he goes to the Office would be so kind as to inquire for them, and if they are there forward them to me. I will pay him the Postage the first Opportunity.

RW 378 Ch.V.F.2.19

Letter Boston Oct. 19
1776

Ch.v.F.2.19

To — Free

The Hon:^ble John Hancock Esqr

in

Philadelphia.

P Post

William Bant
Letter Boston Octo.r 19th
1776